

## Note on the occurrence of *Trogoderma parabile* Beal in Massachusetts

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According to Beal (1959) there are 16 species of *Trogoderma* in the Nearctic Region. The six species frequently associated with stored foods include *T. glabrum* (Herbst), *T. inclusum* Le Conte, *T. ornatum* Say, *T. parabile* Beal, *T. simplex* Jayne, and *T. sternale* Jayne.

Beal (1959) stated that *T. parabile* occurred throughout the United States but was prevalent only in the drier areas. Loschiavo (1960) suggested that *T. parabile* could adapt to colder conditions and may become a pest of economic importance in Canada. Okumura (1967) found that *T. parabile* was frequently found in stored foods and had a wide host range.

Large infestations of *T. parabile* have not been reported from the northeastern U. S., and the following is an account of a sizeable infestation occurring in a store room and bakery in Natick, Massachusetts. On Oct. 11, 1968, several larval and adult specimens were submitted to the senior author for identification. The specimens were tentatively identified as *T. parabile*. Investigation of the collection sites revealed the presence of *T. parabile* in many subsistence items. The infested foods included Danish pastry mixes, cake mixes, flour, sugar, raisins, chocolate, chocolate cake bars wrapped in heavy aluminum foil, and apricot bars wrapped in foil. Practically all foods in the supply room were infested except those stored in metal canisters. Several adults were collected near the windows of the bakery.

This *T. parabile* infestation clearly shows that these insects and other stored food product pests still present a serious problem of food contamination in its various stages of preparation, distribution, and storage. Insect contamination of foods is compounded by a definite marketing trend that creates a great variety of precooked, convenience foods. The importance to human consumption of these foods is considerable when one learns that little or no cooking is required, thus making the ingestion of harmful contaminants more than a remote possibility.

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### LITERATURE CITED

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